

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF DELAWARE

[CAPTION]

SCHEDULING ORDER [COMPLEX CASES]

This _____ day of _____ 20____, the Court having conducted a Rule 16 Scheduling Conference pursuant to Local Rule 16.2(b) on _____, and the parties having determined after discussion that the matter cannot be resolved at this juncture by settlement, voluntary mediation or binding arbitration;

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. **Rule 26(a) Initial Disclosures.** Unless otherwise agreed to by the parties, they shall make their initial disclosures pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(a) on or before _____.
2. **Joinder of other Parties and Amendment of Pleadings.** All motions to join other parties and amend the pleadings shall be filed on or before _____.
3. **Discovery.** All fact discovery in this case shall be initiated so that it will be completed on or before _____. Opening expert reports on issues on which a party bears the burden of proof shall be served on or before _____. Rebuttal expert reports shall be served on or before _____. Expert Discovery in this case shall be initiated so that it will be completed on or before _____.

a. **Discovery and Scheduling Matters:** Should counsel find they are unable to resolve a discovery¹ or scheduling matter, the party seeking the relief shall contact chambers at (302) 573-6470 to schedule a telephone conference. Not less than forty-eight hours prior to the teleconference, the parties shall file with the court, via electronic means (CM/ECF), a **joint, non-argumentative** letter agenda not to exceed two (2) pages outlining the issue(s) in dispute. A sample letter can be located on this court's website at www.ded.uscourts.gov. After the parties have had three (3) discovery teleconferences, they will be required to file a joint letter showing good cause why the court should permit a fourth discovery teleconference. Should the court find further briefing necessary upon conclusion of the telephone conference, unless otherwise directed, the party seeking relief shall file with the court a **TWO PAGE LETTER**, exclusive of exhibits, describing the issues in contention. The responding party shall file within five (5) days from the date of service of the opening letter an answering letter of no more than **TWO PAGES**. The party seeking relief may then file a reply letter of no more than **TWO PAGES** within three (3) days from the date of service of the answering letter.

4. **Confidential Information and Papers filed under Seal.** Should counsel find it will be necessary to apply to the court for a protective order specifying terms and conditions for the disclosure of confidential information, they should confer and attempt to reach an agreement on a proposed form of order and submit it to the court within ten (10) days from the date of this order. When filing papers under seal, counsel should deliver to the Clerk an original and two copies of the papers.

¹ Unless the court otherwise orders, should counsel be unable to agree on the discovery of paper and electronic documents, the court's "Default Standard for Discovery, Including Discovery of Electronically Stored Information" ("ESI") shall govern.

If after making a diligent effort the parties are unable to agree on the contents of the joint proposed protective order, then they shall follow the dispute resolution process outlined in paragraph 3(a).

5. **Settlement Conference.** Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §636, this matter is referred to the United States Magistrate for the purpose of exploring the possibility of a settlement. If the parties agree that the possibility of settlement may be enhanced by such referral, the parties shall contact the assigned United States Magistrate Judge to schedule a settlement conference with counsel and the clients.

6. **Summary Judgment Motions.** Prior to filing any summary judgment motion, the parties must submit letter briefs seeking permission to file the motion. The opening letter brief shall be no longer than five (5) pages and shall be filed with the Court no later than _____. Answering letter briefs shall be no longer than five (5) pages and filed with the court no later than _____. Reply letter briefs shall be no longer than three (3) pages and filed with the Court on or before _____. Unless otherwise determined, the Court shall hold a Status Conference to hear argument and to determine whether the filing of any motion for summary judgment will be permitted on _____ at _____.m. **Unless the Court directs otherwise, no letter requests to file a motion for summary judgment may be filed at a time before the dates set forth in paragraph 6.**

7. **Case Dispositive Motions:** To the extent permitted, all case or issue dispositive motions shall be served and filed within two weeks of the summary judgment Status Conference, or within two weeks of the Court's decision to permit the filing of such motions. Briefing will be presented pursuant to the Court's Local Rules. The parties may agree on an alternative briefing schedule. Any such agreement shall be in writing and filed with the Court for the Court's approval. Any request

for extensions of time as set forth in this Scheduling Order **must** be accompanied by an explanation or your request will be denied.

8. **Applications by Motion.** Except as provided in this Scheduling Order or for matters relating to scheduling, any application to the Court shall be by written motion filed, via electronic means (CM/ECF). Unless otherwise requested by the Court, counsel shall **not** deliver copies of papers or correspondence to Chambers. Any non-dispositive motion should contain the statement required by Local Rule 7.1.1.

9. **Oral Argument.** If the Court believes that oral argument is necessary, the Court will schedule a hearing Pursuant to District of Delaware Local Rule 7.1.4.

10. **Pretrial Conference.** On _____, beginning at _____ .m., the Court will hold a Pretrial Conference in Chambers with counsel. Unless otherwise ordered by the Court, the parties should assume that filing the Joint Pretrial Order satisfies the pretrial disclosure requirement in Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(a)(3). A sample form of Pretrial Order can be located on this court's website at www.ded.uscourts.gov. Thirty (30) days before the Joint Proposed Pretrial Order is due, plaintiff's counsel shall forward to defendant's counsel a draft of the pretrial order containing the information plaintiff proposes to include in the draft. Defendant's counsel shall, in turn, provide to plaintiff's counsel any comments on the plaintiff's draft, as well as the information defendant proposes to include in the proposed pretrial order. **Motions in limine**²: ***NO MOTIONS IN LIMINE SHALL BE FILED***; instead, the parties shall be prepared to address their evidentiary issues at the Pretrial Conference and during trial (before and after the trial day). The parties shall file with the court the **joint** Proposed Final Pretrial Order in accordance with the terms and with the

² The parties should simply list, in an Exhibit to be attached to the Pretrial order, the issues under a heading such as "Plaintiff's [name of party] List of Evidentiary Issues It Intends To Raise."

information required by the form of Final Pretrial Order, which can be located on this court's website at www.ded.uscourts.gov on or before _____.

11. **Trial**. This matter is scheduled for a _____ day (jury or bench) _____ trial beginning at 9:30 a.m. on _____.

12. **Scheduling**: The parties shall contact chambers, at (302) 573-6470, only in situations where scheduling relief is sought, and only then when ALL participating counsel is on the line for purposes of selecting a new date.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE